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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 7, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Since justice and judgment are the foundation of Your throne, Lord God; because You love those who hate evil and guard the lives of Your faithful ones, Lord, we know that You welcome into the heavenly court Your servant, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist.

May his legacy continue to guide this Chamber, the provisions of the courts of this land and the citizens governed; to seek the truth behind every dispute and deferring opinion, to work for equal justice under the law for all Your people.

Eternal rest and reward grant unto him, O Lord. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms.

SOLIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SOLIS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SUPPORTING JUDGE JOHN ROBERTS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for President Bush's nominee for Chief Justice, Judge John Roberts, Jr. Judge Roberts has a distinguished record, a brilliant legal mind, and is uniquely qualified to replace the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

Judge Roberts graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University in only 3 years. He then went on to graduate magna cum laude from Harvard Law School where he served as editor of the Law Review. Judge Roberts also clerked for our late Chief Justice Rehnquist.

Judge Roberts has argued 39 cases before the Supreme Court, earning him a reputation as one of the finest advocates in the Nation. Only a handful of the 180,000 members of the Supreme Court bar come close to this record.

Since 2003, he has served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. District. This court is regarded as the second most influential court in the Nation. Judge Roberts was confirmed unanimously for this important position by the United States Senate.

Judge Roberts is the kind of judge we need. He will apply the law as written and decide the case on its merits, regardless of his personal political views.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear Judge Roberts offers all we could ask for in a Chief Justice nominee. Therefore, I

urge the Senate to hold fair and speedy hearings in order to fill this important vacancy as soon as possible.

KATRINA RESPONSE

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, there are three ways to respond to the crisis along the gulf coast: rebuilding, restoring, and retrospection. We must pinpoint the errors made prior to the storm and flooding, develop an action plan on what needs to be done to ensure that the response failures do not happen again, and focus on rebuilding people's lives.

Pointing fingers and attributing blame does little to put our country back together again. On the other hand, acting Pollyannish, as if everything went according to plan, would be dangerous. Failing to respond in a time of need is unacceptable.

Here are four things we must begin immediately to help folks put their lives back together: first, anyone affected by this tragedy should be exempted from the recently enacted bankruptcy laws. Second, we need to make sure the kids whose lives have been turned upside down receive universal health care and an education. Those seeking a higher education will receive a \$3,000 voucher. Third, we need to start reconstruction from housing to highways. New Orleans and the rest of the gulf coast must come back better and safer than before. Fourth, we need to immediately begin to restore the region's natural buffer zones.

Mr. Speaker, in a crisis people look to their fellow countrymen, and they are looking to this country. It is time to start the rebuilding, the restoring, and the retrospection.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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